

**TOWN OF PEACHAM
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall Meeting Room
Wednesday September 2, 2015 6:30PM**

Present:

Selectboard: Annette Lorraine, Nate Giroux, and David Jacobs

Clerk to the Selectboard: Melissa Laurita Kohl

Public: Rodney Reis, Mary Ellen Reis, Aubrey Cabot-Case, Liza Cabot-Case, Mat Kiley, Mike Bruton, Principal Judy Ross, Geoff Sewake, Stephen Engle, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers, John Kaplan, Dale Roy

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Nate Giroux at 6:30 PM.

1) Additions

- a) Principal Judy Ross
- b) Geoff Sewake re: Planning Commission
- c) Stephen Engle
- d) Roller Barn

2) Minutes:

- a) **David moves to approve the minutes of 8/19/15. Annette seconds. So moved.**

3) Principal Judy Ross

- a) Huge thank you to town of Peacham for all of the playground work that went on.
- b) Another safety incident issue with kids riding bikes to school. We have contracted with the sheriff's department to be on site in the morning when kids are going to school. Have a corporate sponsor for the sheriff's presence. The Caledonia County sheriff's department said that they did not have a contract with the Town of Peacham on file.
- c) Nate said that we do have a contract with the sheriff's office. He will call them and Tom or Melissa will find the contract.
- d) Judy said that the calming signal has really helped.

4) Mel and Rodney Reis re: Spraying the Walkway

- a) Mel and Rodney brought in their concerns about the walkway that goes through the village.
- b) Rodney said that it was put in 14 years ago. with no maintenance plan. So it grew back in. He had plowed it with a neighbor every snowstorm for 10 years.
- c) Rodney came home and saw flags on the lawn. Take my dog up the path and notice the path is wet. Immediately jumped up and got off the path. Never notified by mail, phone, or knocking on door that roundup - poison - was sprayed on our property.
- d) We are concerned that if there is no maintenance plan we do not want to have it put back in. We see people walking past it every time.
- e) Fine with the school or anyone plowing - but if no one maintains it during the winter then i am totally against it. Leave it green. Path looks great.
- f) David said that if people do not know there is a walk there, they are walking in the street.
- g) Nate said that we had discussed this through last winter. We had talked about having Joe Lane or someone else local come through with a snowblower and have the path open for the school in the winter. I understand your point about roundup and the weedkiller and admittedly that should have gone differently. I do apologize for that.
- h) Annette said that we thought we have made arrangements for contact.
- i) Nate - we have to of course talk about it - i would like it to be maintained through the winter. that's what we talked about and have to talk about it again.

- j) As far as going back to gravel maybe we should have a discussion with all of the property owners to see how they feel about it. At least three families do not want the gravel there. We are the ones who have to look at it and it makes it maintaining the pebbles everywhere in garden,
- k) Mel has written two books with the PHA about the historical association. I would rather go with the staymat if we needed to go with that but the three of us would prefer to have the grass.
- l) David - it will be easy enough to get the grass about it. We talked about notifying everyone about this but we are at fault for not notifying everyone about it.
- m) Annette - public safety is our first concern. With kids riding bikes and mothers pushing strollers we have had complaints.
- n) Judy they really like the idea of the path being an accessible place. If you could keep that open year round and it is a safe surface for kids riding a bike.
- o) We pushed strollers. Riding bikes are
- p) Annette just wants to get input from more community members.
- q) Nate said shy of going to a straight staymat we could every few years we could take edge out and make sure it is level. Then it could stay grass. Because things move and heave.
- r) Liza said here is another really crazy thought - the historic pathways in towns were wood planks and it is approved for wheelchair access.
- s) Aubrey asked why did roundup have to be sprayed with roundup. I have worked there pretty consistently for a couple of weeks and I do not want to take the kids up there to the farmers market on that path. Why did we have to spray poison.
- t) Mel is concerned that you will approve this and it will have a maintenance plan for a year and then four years will be in the same place.
- u) David said that roundup was applied by a licensed applicator and is inert after it is dried.
- v) Matt said that in year 2000 when the sidewalk was resurrected - it is still concrete somewhere down there. (Rodney says he has dug there not in his yard). The Selectboard at that time had asked for estimates for concrete, cobblestones with presidents names, all judged too expensive but the excavation - about 3000 was the budget - to work with to do it with volunteer labor and an Allen Thresher and got a deal with the 3/4 inch staymat that had gone in. 3/8 would have packed tighter and would have been more smooth. the 3/4 had the pebbles. It was a grandfathered thing and in 2000 they did the research to see why it was so far off the road. Maintenance was discussed at the time. Because of the kindness of Rodney and Larry Jensen = it got very defined in the winter time through plowing. for the first 4 or 5 years I tried to maintain it to try to keep the creep of the grass back - i may have made it worse. The problem is not just winter maintenance not just summer maintenance. People do not know it's there. They walk in the road. People do not want to impinge on other people's private property. I see it and I have held my breath for years. I will take responsibility for not notifying everyone. I don't remember but I probably did. I got caught up in the whole Ben and Jerry's thing at the school and I dropped the ball. I flagged it the day before but the day that it was happening - I was there to meet Mr Brown at 8 am - he didn't actually come until noon. it was applied some time in the early afternoon. there were a couple set of areas that were skipped. if staymat was affordable to the town then - the price of concrete then would have been \$16,000. The Selectboard had recognized the need for safety. But it's the summer time use. the town has more activity down here now.
- w) Stephen - when it comes to a discussion about the relative merits of these materials that it washes away into the grass. I am perhaps one of the biggest users of staymat in Peacham.
- x) Nate said that if it would go back to staymat the question is how many years is it going to be kept up and implemented before it goes back to grass again if the selectboard changes. Annette said maybe if we have a special line item in the

budget then even if we rotate out, the institutional memory will be jogged every year.

- y) Liza how would you go about getting input - call and email asking them to come to next email. David said that Judy could put an email out and one of those phonecalls.
 - z) Stephen = better signage - so people know where to go./ Nate said that a couple of signs and a maintenance plan and village pathway marker
 - aa) Matt - do you think the property owners would be willing to delineate with a path of flowers. Mel Reis said that we feel we give you a beautiful view as you walk through the village and give us the respect
 - bb) Jeremy said that once you plow it you have to sand it because it will ice over. Rodney does not have a problem with the sand. No salt.
 - cc) Dale I think a lot of people are missing the basic point. I lived here all my life - it will turn into a muddy little ribbon so you gonna have to do something about paving it. David - there is a lot of gravel so drains well - a pretty good base.
 - dd) Nate said the next step is to solicit input and come up with a maintenance plan. It probably would be the next selectboard meeting. If people want to submit input in writing. Send Judy a statement about what we seek. Post online and FPF and Craigslist.
 - ee) Matt said that one really good idea possibly be that something was applied to the grass that doesn't end in '-ide. I recognize that roundup is approved and laws in VT don't require notification for its application. David said vinegar. Nate said we may have to have this in the gym next time.
 - ff) Aubrey said that personally we are trying to encourage people to walk there and now I know myself and a few other people are walking in the street instead.
 - gg) Matt said that once the grass was dead from the recommended chemical that was applied - it had been my plan with my wheelbarrow and tractor to dig it out. As a volunteer.
 - hh) Aubrey - personally I would have pulled it myself to prevent roundup from being sprayed.
 - ii) Mel - they need a plan to solicit against.
 - jj) David said that it might take us more than the next Selectboard meeting. We are going to have to walk that path to see what is going on. On agenda for next meeting - site visit for the path. Talk about it and plan for the path and maintenance. Meeting after that will have public comment.
 - kk) Stephen - one other request - before next time can we know what the easement we are invoking is - we want a piece of paper from the state of Vermont. Matt said this would be part of the minutes from the year 2000. And then the orange book.
 - ll) Matt thanked Jeremy for the top of Academy Hill rd where two cars can pass now.
- 5) Geoff said that we have been going through the bylaws but we have not been able to get a quorum for the last two meetings. I am reluctantly the chair. I spoke with Nick and he said that he does not think that any money was spent through the planning grant. Any billing would have been through NVDA. I
- a) Annette said that if you want to have consult a consultant.
 - b) Geoff said that his mental plan is that he can have the authority to contract NVDA to review the bylaws and to have the village maps and ag overlay maps done. Any legal requirements from state can be put in., then it could become a pre-hearing process. We want to do a big public process.
 - c) Annette said that NVDA may not be able to satisfy all of your needs. She recommended Paul Doherty.
 - d) Geoff said that would be for a different kind of zoning that would set us back another year or so. That would be form-based code. I think after we get through the bylaws, town plan process, then from there go into form-based code.

- e) Essentially the reason why i cam was to update you and to move forward. Annetyte said that you already have our blessing to hire NVDA or whoever and just keep Annette posted so she can talk to tom.
 - f) Annette - can you update us on who your planning commission members are.
 - g) Geoff - the planning commission is Nick Commerci, Marilyn Magnus, myself, and Tim Scott, but have to revisit with him to see if he is still interested. We have another opening. If Melissa could be an alternate then we could still hold a meeting if she is there. Nick and I
 - h) Annette moves that we appoint Melissa as an alternate to the Planning Commission. David seconds. So moved.**
 - i) Geoff said just a couple of side comments on public process - I work for... - we do a lot of outreach process and its a great way to really involve the community. There are all sorts of ways that dont require you to be at a meeting = tjhere are a lot of creative solutions - there are grants. Would like to incorporate thaty into town plan process.
- 6) Stephen - another walkway - up the hill here. There is a sign there along the road - it says Academy Apartments - signage falling off, cant read it.
- a) David says that is the responsibility of EP Management however PCH is hiring the corrections crew to make a new sign this winter andf there will be a new sign next spring.
- 7) One day liquor license approvals and whether to delegate to town clerk
- a) Nate moves to delegate authority to sign one day liquor licenses to the town clerk. Annette seconds. So moved.
- 8) Kinnerson Drive
- a) That letter has the two options with it. PCH chose the option to grade it once a year. Jeremy has said that he is not comfortable with that.
 - b) Mike Brutpn agrees with Jeremy. Why dont we have a private contractor to have it done. I just think it would elimnate a lot of problems for Jeremy. I think to protect Jeremy and make him feel better - to kkeep him here because he is a great guy.
 - c) David says that he thinks that is a great idea. Nate and Annette agree.
 - d) Mike knows we have to throw some taxpayer money in there and i dont like that but that's okay.
 - e) Nate said that the reason that this makes good sense is that we already have the access road for the cemetery to is as opposed to how much it would cost to put in a new road.
 - f) Annette said that we just need to check our budget - because we have a line item for contracted services and using the road crew was a way to do it in-kind.
 - g) David said that the town will have a legal easement to use that driveway. When the easement is approved and signed then that work will be done. As it stands now, Jutta and scott are working really hard to get a letter to us from VCermont Housing and conservation Vermont and PCH to say we agree to an easement.
 - h) Nate - then we could send it out to bid. Annette said that if it doesnt work in this years budget, then january is not far away.
 - i) Mike i appreciate your willingness to this approach.
- 9) Road Foreman Update
- a) Jeremy said that I have had a request for spraying a driveway with chloride. It's a private driveway. Apparently it has happened in years past. He said just keep track of the chloride we spray and charge him for it. Nate said that theat used to be a popular thing. Annette said that if people cannot find someone to do a service they can hire the road crew but the road crew/town cannot compete with private enterprise.
 - b) Nate said that we have gotten to the point wjhere it used to happen but it is not supposed to happen. if there is a problem or question with it., they can come to us.

- c) Annrtte said that it is a matter of state law. we cannot compete with private contractors.
- d) Olther than that we are doing well. we are out there constantly. i just ordered fuel. that's going to become an issue. fuel keeps going down. this is our third load for the year and that's what we are budgeted for.
- e) garage water is still flowing. not muddy. we dont drink it. we can wash trucks. he said i think in december it needs to be put in the budget to put in a well or re-dig this line. after talking to the state about putting a sand shed over our sand pile.
- f) Have has some truck repairs.
- g) we just pushed over 3000 yards of sand. grading. tough right now. waiting on a load of chloride. we did maple tree lane today and we were still on there and getting phone calls that it was dusty.

10) No town clerk update.

11) Roller Barn

- a) Dick Hovey wants the temporary ramp up for fall foliage day - October 1.
- b) Nate said he would do it.
- c) Annette do you have any idea of rays schedule for putting up that beam. i dont know when we are going to get the letter from our historic expert - i feel like we should just do it.
- d) Allen thresher moved all the rollers for dick. can see if he wouldnt mind putting a ramp in with his little dozer.
- e) Ray was planning on doing it in the fall. Nate guesses october. he will talk to him

12) Dale asked what is the truthfulness on signage - it says no outlet on taylor rd which is an absolute fabrication and lie. there is an outlet, it is a town road. Liza said that is steered me off. Dale investigated because he didnt know what legally what was right.

- a) Jeremy said that the town has been there.
- b) Annette said that we will have a site meeting at the next meeting.
- c) dale said that if you put gates up fences better come to the gate posts because then you are putting them up to obstruct traffic not to keep animals in. There is not. I dont know the legality of it just the way it was always done and that was agricultural times. Putting gates in the road just to obstruct the road is not legal. I leave them closed.
- d) Her trail is not marked down there. I understand where they had the problem going up the road in the wrong direction. Getting back onto taylor rd you have to go across a lawn area without it being marked. No real evidence of where you do fgo. He suggests taking the gate across the road and take the gate to her road/driveway.
- e) Bail me out of jail because i am going to start using the road again. I think my brothers and everybody are going to go jeep riding uyp thwere this weekend. i think that this is a problem that needs to be resolved.
- f) Annette - can i throw something out there. if you really want that legal trail to stay open and available - it might be a good idea to be respectful for the next two weeks until the next site visit. It will help your case a lot more.
- g) Dale said you are making a very good point. What about the directive from the state?
- h) Annette said we have the discretion and the power to declassify a road or restrict a trail. Annette said that personally she is in favor of trails but i do believe we need to have a lot of respect especially when people have animals.
- i) Dake saID THAt i have kids and grandkids and the more of these roads that close and they never gewt re-opened.
- j) Liza said that it is not obvious. And the sign shouldn't be there (no outlet) if it does have an outlet.
- k) Next agenda - 9/16/15 - ewell pond entrance to Taylor Rd at 6pm.

13) Peacham Fire District

- a) Really just to plan another field trip. We have the shut off valves and some of them are pretty far set back. this incurs damage theres really moola. we dont need restitution or anything but we want to come up with a plan.
- b) Annette - whats the recommended practice. We could replace them all for a ridiculous cost but we just want to have a plan so that we dont lose anymore.
- c) one of the things we have talked about in our meetings is maintaining the sidewalks and byways. we have been talking and figuring that to make sure that gets done. some of the things we are talking about to make sure we are talking in coordinated - to make sure that it happens in a timely fashion after a snowstorm. Within the village district realm. but there are only 50 water users.

14) Review and approve bills

- a) The Selectboard reviewed and approved bills.

15) Review correspondence

- a) The Selectboard reviewed and approved correspondence.

David moves to adjourn at 8:34pm. Nate seconds. So moved.